

*MILDELLA INTRAMARGINALIS* VAR. *SERRATIFOLIA* (ADIANTACEAE)  
ELEVATED TO SPECIES RANK

Guy L. Nesom

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78713 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

*Mildella intramarginalis* var. *serratifolia* is elevated in rank to species as *Mildella* (*Pteris*) *fallax* (Mart. & Gal.) Nesom, *comb. nov.* This taxon is consistently different from typical *M. intramarginalis* in several morphological features and the two taxa are broadly sympatric.

KEY WORDS: *Mildella*, Adiantaceae

The fern genus *Mildella* Trevisan (Adiantaceae) is primarily distributed in southeast Asia but also has one species in Haiti of the West Indies (*M. leonardii* [Maxon] Hall & Lellinger) and two taxa in México and Central America. The North American taxa have been recognized as varieties of *M. intramarginalis* (Kaulf. ex Link) Trevisan: var. *intramarginalis* and var. *serratifolia* (Hooker & Baker) Hall & Lellinger. A taxonomic account of the genus has been provided by Hall & Lellinger (1967).

Var. *intramarginalis* and var. *serratifolia* are sympatric over a large area of their range, primarily eastern and southern México and into Guatemala. The typical variety extends southward through Central America to Panamá while var. *serratifolia* occurs southward only into Guatemala; at their northern limit, the former has been documented from the Sierra de Guatemala in southwestern Tamaulipas, and from southeastern Nuevo León, while the latter apparently is more common and extends further northward to the Sierra San Carlos, Tamaulipas, and along the sierra to the vicinity of Monterrey, Nuevo León.

"Throughout most of their ranges the var. *serratifolia* is found at somewhat higher elevations than var. *intramarginalis*" (Mickel 1992, p. 304). In the state of Oaxaca, where both taxa are relatively abundant, var. *serratifolia* grows at 1800-3400 meters and var. *intramarginalis* at 900-1900 meters (Mickel & Beitel 1988). This separation in elevation is generally consistent in other parts of the range, but var. *serratifolia* ranges down to 1350 meters and